

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application.

The Specification has been amended to correct minor clerical errors. The claims have been amended to remove the improper multiple dependencies. The amendments made herein to the specification and the claims do not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed.

For example, the amendment to page 42, line 24 to page 43, line 2 is merely a correction of an apparent clerical error. In this amendment, “the formula $(S_{(a2+2\sigma)}) \geq 0.5$ ” appearing at page 42, line 25 and “the formula $(S_{(a2+3\sigma)}) \geq 0.5$ ” appearing at page 43, line 2 have been corrected to read $--(S_{(a2+2\sigma)})/(S) \geq 0.5--$ and $--(S_{(a2+3\sigma)})/(S) \geq 0.5--$, respectively. Support for the latter (i.e., $--(S_{(a2+3\sigma)})/(S) \geq 0.5--$) of the two correct formulae is found at, for example, page 16, line 1, where the correct formula “ $(S_{(a2+3\sigma)})/(S) \geq 0.5$ ” is found. Further, this amendment is apparent from the context containing the corrected portion. Specifically, attention is drawn to the description at page 42, line 18 to page 43, line 2, which reads as follows:

“... In the present invention, with respect to the porous silica layer, it is preferred that (S_{a2}) and (S) as described above satisfy the formula: $(S_{a2})/(S) \geq 0.5$; it is more preferred that $(S_{(a2 + \sigma)})$ and (S) as described above satisfy the formula: $(S_{(a2 + \sigma)})/(S) \geq 0.5$; it is still more preferred that $(S_{(a2 + 2\sigma)})$ and (S) as described above ~~satisfies~~ satisfy the formula ~~$(S_{(a2 + 2\sigma)}) \geq 0.5$~~ $(S_{(a2 + 2\sigma)})/(S) \geq 0.5$; and it is still more preferred that $(S_{(a2 + 3\sigma)})$ and (S) as described above ~~satisfies~~ satisfy the formula: ~~$(S_{(a2 + 3\sigma)}) \geq 0.5$~~ $(S_{(a2 + 3\sigma)})/(S) \geq 0.5$”

In the above-quoted description, it should be noted that the formulae appearing just before the amended portion reads “ $(S_{a2})/(S) \geq 0.5$ ” and “ $(S_{(a2 + \sigma)})/(S) \geq 0.5$ ”. That is, each of these formulae contains a portion “ $/(S)$ ”.

From the above, it is apparent that the original expressions “the formula $(S_{(a2 + 2\sigma)}) \geq 0.5$ ” and “the formula: $(S_{(a2 + 3\sigma)}) \geq 0.5$ ” should correctly read “ $(S_{(a2+2\sigma)})/(S) \geq 0.5$ ” and “ $(S_{(a2+3\sigma)})/(S) \geq 0.5$ ”, respectively.

The amendment to page 78, line 19, is merely a correction of an inadvertent error in the description of Example 4. In this amendment, the passage --subjected to heating at 120 °C for 1 minute using a forced convection oven, and then-- has instantly been inserted in a description concerning the curing of the hard coat layer-forming agent (trade name: KAYANOVA FOP-1100) used in Example 4. This amendment is apparent from Example 9 of the present application, which uses the same hard coat layer-forming agent (trade name: KAYANOVA FOP-1100; manufactured and sold by Nippon Kayaku Co., Ltd., Japan) as used in Example 4. Specifically, attention is drawn to the description at page 84, line 20 to page 85, line 11, which reads as follows:

“ Substantially the same procedure as in Example 5 was repeated except: that the commercially available hard coat layer-forming agent (trade name: UVHC1101; manufactured and sold by GE Toshiba Silicones Co., Ltd., Japan) was replaced by another product of hard coat layer-forming agent (trade name: KAYANOVA FOP-1100; manufactured and sold by Nippon Kayaku Co., Ltd., Japan); that the coating (of the hard coat layer-forming agent) formed on the PET film was subjected to heating at 120 °C for 1 minute using a forced convection oven, and then cured by irradiating ultraviolet rays for 360 seconds using a photo surface processor (trade name: PL16-110; manufactured and sold by Sen Engineering Co., Ltd., Japan) (illumination intensity at a wavelength of 250 nm: 13 mW/cm²), thereby forming a hard coat layer having a thickness of 8 μm;” (Emphasis added)

From the above-quoted description, it is apparent that **heating at 120 °C for 1 minute using a forced convection oven** before irradiation of ultraviolet rays is **required for curing the**

hard coat layer-forming agent (trade name: KAYANOVA FOP-1100) used in Example 4. Hence, the passage --subjected to heating at 120 °C for 1 minute using a forced convection oven, and then-- should be added at page 78, line 19 (Example 4).

The amendments to claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12 and 14 have been made in order to remove the improper multiple dependencies. The amendments made herein to the claims do not narrow the scope of the claims, and thus do not raise the estoppel issue and concerns.

Conclusion

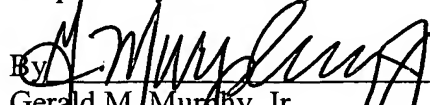
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gerald M. Murphy, Jr. (Reg. No. 28,977) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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